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"It's Different"



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U. S. Department of Agriculture

CYMBIDIUM ORCHIDS

(Priced under \$50.00)

This list comprises plants recently divided by ourselves and are varieties selected for free blooming qualities and vigorous growth.

These are strong, healthy divisions of larger clumps and will bloom much sooner than seedlings or back bulb propagations. They are in 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 inch pots, according to size of plants. They can be shipped out of the pots if desired to save weight.

The size of the plants may be determined by the price. They are approximately \$7.50 per green pseudo-bulb and \$2.50 per new growth. We can supply plants, at \$10.00, \$15.00, \$20.00, \$25.00, \$30.00 \$35.00, \$40.00 and \$50.00.

All stock subject to prior sale. We believe we have enough of the varieties listed below to meet all demands. However, should we sell out of a variety may we substitute? In which case we will send as near the same color as possible and of the same, or greater, value.

SHIPPING

Material will be shipped by railway express, charges collect, unless instructed otherwise. Please add 10% to the total value of the order for packing and handling, unless the order is \$100.00 or over, in which case packing is free. Customers residing in California please add 2-1/2% sales tax, and those in Los Angeles City limits, 3%.

Since most of these Orchids are hybrids the colors given are only an approximation of what they may be; we cannot guarantee the colors. However, all of them are beautiful.

We also have quite an extensive collection of Cymbidiums in addition to those listed below--both larger clumps, and new and rare varieties that are higher priced. If interested in these, write for quotations, stating what is wanted. Better still, come and visit the Nursery if possible.

Butterfly - Mid-season, greenish yellow, buff-yellow or tan.
Exceptionally free flowering. \$10.00 up.

Curlew - Mid-season. Quite variable. Bright colors, light to deep yellow, silvery pink to rose, sometimes bronze. \$15.00 up.

Eagle - Mid-season. Variable, generally a pastel shade, Ivory, yellow, light pink or light green, deeper markings on lip.
\$10.00 up.

Erica - Early to mid-season. Light to deep yellow, chartreuse or green. Long arching sprays. \$15.00 up.

Frivolity - Mid-season to late. Many lovely colors, light to deep pink, cream, canary yellow to chrome yellow, light green, chartreuse to deep green or bronze. \$15.00 up.

Hugh Evans - Mid-season to late. Greenish yellow, chartreuse or green, with an occasional greenish bronze, always with bright crimson or scarlet lip. \$15.00 up.

Jessica - Mid-season. Light pink to rose, tan or golden brown. \$10.00 up.

Lowianum - Late blooming species. Chartreuse or green with orange or crimson lip. Flowers good keepers, sometimes lasting until July or August. \$10.00 up.

Madeleine - Mid-season. Variable, yellow to orange or bronze, light pink to deep pink or rose. Tall arching sprays. \$10.00 up.

Merlin - Mid-season, variable. Clear yellow, greenish yellow or bronze, sometimes pink or rose. \$10.00 up.

Palermo - Mid-season. Always pink, light to deep pink. Flowers of heavy texture and long lasting. \$10.00 up.

Pauwelsii - Mid-season. Always some shade of yellow, greenish yellow to bronzy yellow. Red markings on lip. Long arching sprays with up to 35 or 40 flowers on one spike. \$10.00 up.

Plover - Mid-season. Another that is quite variable, yellow, greenish yellow, or greenish bronze. There are some very striking color combinations in this hybrid as the lip is likely to be banded with crimson, lavender-rose or wine color. \$15.00 up.

Reseda - Early to mid-season, yellow or reddish brown. \$10.00 up.

Sylvia - Mid-season. Always a nice silvery pink, Exceptionally free flowering. \$10.00 up.

Tracyanum - Early flowering species. Strong vigorous grower. Flowers greenish bronze or golden brown, sometimes marked with rose. Spicy fragrance. \$10.00 up.

Veitchii - Mid-season to late. Light yellow, greenish yellow, green or bronze. \$10.00 up.

Zebra - Mid-season. Always pink. Generally light pink. Some are almost white. Tall arching spikes with many flowers. \$15.00 up.

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CULTURE OF CYMBIDIUMS

In our opinion, it is less difficult to grow Cymbidium Orchids well and have an abundance of flower than it is to grow, for example, Azaleas, Gardenias and tuberous Begonias, particularly in Southern California with our hot sun and dry air. We will deal first with their cultivation in the ground under the light shade of Oaks or other trees which do not throw too dense a shade, or better still in lathouses. Where there is any question as to proper drainage of the soil, it is important to raise the beds about twelve or eighteen inches, putting underneath two or three inches of crushed rock or pea gravel to insure perfect drainage. The soil should be about half light loam and half leaf mold, with the admixture of some bone meal or **well-rotted** cow or steer manure if obtainable. When the plants are set in the ground, care being exercised to keep the pseudo bulbs well above the ground, and in no case too deep, the surface of the ground should be covered with either peat, bean straw, or leaf mold so that the roots will always be cool and moist under the mulch. The beds must not be cultivated as the roots are just below or on the surface.

In the Summertime the plants are benefited by sprinkling overhead in the mornings. This overhead sprinkling should not take place late in the day, otherwise water may settle in the new growth and remain there overnight, which sometimes results in the rotting of the new growths. This overhead sprinkling should not be confused with irrigation, which is an entirely distinct operation. The plants should be copiously watered in the Summertime and never be allowed to become dry, nor should the soil ever get into a soggy condition, as free and perfect drainage is essential to the well-being of Cymbidiums. The matter of how often to water naturally depends on weather conditions; hot days and drying winds, the character of the soil, the age and size of the plants, etc., etc. In the coastal regions the plants will not require as constant watering as in the hotter interior regions. Normally, near the coast, particularly if there is a good cool mulch all over the ground, one thorough soaking a month will usually prove sufficient. Further inland, in hot weather, the plants may require soaking every week or ten days. Plants in containers, especially clay pots, of course, will require water much more frequently. One cardinal rule must invariably be observed—never water if the soil is already wet. These remarks do not apply to light overhead sprinkling to moisten the foliage and cool the air. An overhead sprinkling system with pipes below the roof throwing a fine, misty spray will prove distinctly beneficial, especially in areas with strong summer heat. During unusually hot weather, the sprinklers can be turned on once or several times a day, thereby increasing atmospheric moisture, which is so desirable.

When the plants are well established, that is to say, after they have been in the ground for a year, mulch of cow manure or rotted steer manure can be spread on the beds, keeping it away if possible from contact with the bulbs themselves, although unless the manure is too fresh there is little danger of the manure damaging the bulbs. The laths overhead should be about their own width apart, and run North and South, rather than East and West, thus breaking the rays of the sun to about the right extent. If the location is one in which warm or drying winds occur, it is a good idea to board up the lath on the windy side to a height of five or six feet, but this need not be done all around the house as these plants must have plenty of light and air to insure freedom of bloom.

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CULTIVATION IN POTS, TUBS OR BOXES

Where the plants are grown in containers, it is highly important to provide plenty of drainage in the bottom of the container. Rocks, broken crocks, or pea gravel should be placed in the bottom of the container to one-fourth to one-third of the depth of the pot or tub. The same soil mixture as designated for the beds outside can be used for the containers. If, after filling the pot or tub with water, it flows through immediately and does not stay on the surface, that is an indication that so far as drainage is concerned the compost is about correct. If, on the other hand, after watering, the water remains on top of the soil, it is a sign that there is not enough drainage or that the compost is too heavy.

Established plants in containers can be given manure during the Spring, Summer and Fall every two weeks, a little at a time. Little and often is always a good rule with respect to fertilizing. Never give a double amount of fertilizer on the theory that the plants have not been getting enough. So far as this matter of fertilizing *Cymbidium* Orchids is concerned, there are many good growers who do not fertilize at all. On the other hand, there are plenty of good growers who do. The same divergence of opinion holds good with respect to the soil in which they should be grown. Nearly every grower has his own ideas on the subject.

According to our experience and observations, when *Cymbidiums* do not succeed in containers, it is frequently because they are put into too large a container. Consequently, when they are watered, the roots are not able to assimilate all the moisture and they rot. Another reason for the plants not growing or blooming well either in the ground or in containers is because they are planted in situations where they do not receive enough light. They will not succeed or flower where the shade is too heavy.

HARDINESS OF CYMBIDIUMS TO COLD

These Orchids are considerably more resistant to cold than many plants which fill our gardens. They will endure several degrees of frost without damage when the tops of *Geraniums*, *Heliotrope*, *Nasturtiums*, etc., show the effects of cold.

The question is often asked as to the right time and proper manner for dividing *Cymbidium* plants. We and a good many other growers, I think, do some dividing every month in the year, though we have found dividing in July or August has brought the most satisfactory results. Some growers like to divide the plants as soon as they have finished flowering. The commercial grower has to do a good deal of dividing, particularly varieties of which the stock is scarce. When the plants are divided and replanted in the ground in moist soil, they can receive one good watering at the time and no further watering for three or four weeks. If divided and planted in containers, it is well to wait three or four days before watering at all, but in both instances the foliage should be well sprinkled overhead every day—in hot weather two or three times a day is better still. The non-commercial or amateur grower who has these plants for their beauty and flowers will have better results by dividing or disturbing as little as possible. Continued dividing and replanting often results in loss of flowers for at least one season. A clump of these Orchids undisturbed will increase in size and flower production every year. Nothing is finer or more deeply satisfying than a large well-grown plant of *Cymbidium*, with a profusion of flower.

By having several varieties, *Cymbidiums* can be had in flower in your garden from December until the end of July, or even the beginning of August. The early blooming varieties such as *Tracyanum* and its Hybrids usually come into flower in December, and *C. Lowianum* being one of the latest bloomers of them all is sometimes carrying flower until the middle of August. These beautiful Orchids are easily grown. They increase in size and beauty every year, it not being uncommon for an old plant to carry as many as fifteen to twenty flower spikes, the flowers themselves on the plants lasting from six to twelve weeks and lasting also for several weeks when cut or brought into the house, so it is no wonder that the demand for them is increasing day by day, so much so that up to now the demand has been running ahead of the supply, particularly for the newer and rarer varieties.